

South-Central *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group _____ # 8 _____ (color)

Facilitator _____ Karna Hanna. _____

Reporter _____ Willfahrt/Lerner _____

Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: 9)

Create incentives to reverse the brain drain

Priority response #2 (votes: _7)

Encourage entrepreneurial development

Priority response #3 (votes: __6)

Increase funding for technology development – specifically for UW-Madison

Priority response #4 (votes: __4)

Remove disincentives to work for people with disabilities

Priority response #5 (votes: __4_)

Maintain and improve state incentive programs (TIFs, venture capital) .

Priority response #6 (votes: __4)

Encourage UW system and WTCS to hire more expertise in cluster strengths

Priority response #7 (votes: _2_)

Level the playing field with other state (taxes, regulations)

Priority response #8 (votes: _2)

Put incentives in place to encourage people to work longer

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Create incentives to reverse the brain drain

- Provide incentives for business to recruit WI grads (tax breaks, contracts)
- Marketing campaign –(Come home to WI)
- Do succession planning with individuals to move up into leadership positions (i.e. SBDC, CEO Boot Camp)
- Legislation to allow for special stay-in state incentives “If you stay (after college) we’ll pay” - target to high demand jobs
- State should research why the out-migration
- Better publicize existing programs (i.e. rural physician recruitment)
- Target research – key jobs and industries, target incentives
- Change WI branding and marketing by region
- Develop high tech jobs
- Target young families – come to WI to raise your family
- Stimulate immigration, retention of foreign students
- Utilize retirees (reduce taxes on retirees)
- Forgive loans for returning WI students and residents
- Facilitate investment clubs (esp. w/retirees) and publicize
- Create network of service and publicize resources
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Priority Issue #2 Encourage entrepreneurial development

- Facilitate investment clubs to get \$ into targeted businesses
- Incentives for business incubator
- Encourage mentoring groups
- Fund entrepreneurial program (dept. at WTYCS and UW system)
- Promote entrepreneurial thinking in K-12
- Fund venture capital, industrial economic development fund (seed fund, prototype \$)
- Expand/market services/more comprehensive services @ SBDC
- Tie education (workshops, seminars) to \$\$ (Loans, grants, etc.)
- Tax break incentive (credit) for angel investors